



Program Review

Fall 2006

Interpretive and educational programs were presented by National Monument staff and volunteers in fall 2006 to enhance visitors' understanding and appreciation of natural and cultural resources in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains.

Last quarter's seasonal theme, "Explore the Wild This Fall," highlighted a variety of opportunities for visitors to become involved with the Monument, including six lectures, three hikes, three workshops, and an outdoor workday. Ten classroom presentations and ten guided field study trips were part of the environmental education program provided to elementary school children in the Coachella Valley. Public programs presented include:

- *There's A Monument in Your Backyard* - presentations, National Monument Visitor Center
- *Five Favorite Monument Hikes* - presentation to Coachella Valley Realtors
- *Tamarisk Bash* (removal) - Boo Hoff Trail
- *La Quinta Trails Days Map Dedication* - La Quinta Cove Oasis
- *A Countdown to Earthquakes* – presentation at Great Outdoors
- *Roadrunner, Cuckoo of the Desert* - lecture at La Quinta Library
- *Public Lands Day* – reenactment at Old Town State Park, San Diego
- *Murray Canyon Nature Hike* - Indian Canyons, Palm Springs
- *Monumental Expeditions* - living history presentation, National Monument Visitor Center
- *Cactus Springs Nature Hike* - Santa Rosa Mountains
- *Mountain Lions* – lecture, National Monument Visitor Center
- *Panel Presenter, Wildfires Education Project* - International Fire Ecology & Management Congress, San Diego
- *Amazing Adaptations* - workshop in Tahquitz Canyon, Palm Springs
- *Student Field Trips* - La Quinta Cove
- *Student Field Trips* - Indian Canyons, Palm Springs

Advertisement of these events occurred through a flier distributed by BLM and Forest Service, public information providers in the region (libraries, Chambers of Commerce), Natural Science Collaborative participants, local hotel concierges, and local colleges and small businesses that cater to tourists. Of significance, publications associated with Palm Springs Life magazine (Desert Guide, Palms Springs Visitors Guide) highlighted the November events. A significant number of participants responded that they learned about the programs through one of these publications. Individuals on the Monument's mailing list of approximately 200 people received a flier in August that listed all fall programs. This schedule was also available on the National Monument website. A press release regarding these Monument programs was provided to various media.

Attendance at Monument-sponsored programs during the fall season attracted 1,030 participants. Last season, summer, ("Discovery" theme) the program attendance figure was 840 persons. Highlights include attendance of two programs above the initial capacity limit: the Cactus Springs Trail hike and the Amazing Adaptations workshop.

Partnerships fostered through programming this season included:

- Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
- City of La Quinta
- Desert Riders
- Desert Sands Unified School District
- Friends of the Desert Mountains
- Mizell Senior Center
- Mt. San Jacinto State Park
- Old Town State Park, San Diego
- Palm Springs Life Magazine
- San Diego State University
- Sierra Club

Training and Awards

The National Association of Interpretation provided volunteer training and certification to volunteer Joe Migliore. He also received Radio Communications training by BLM. Tracy Albrecht, Interpretive Specialist, attended the National Association of Interpretation's national conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico where she was presented the Excellence in Interpretation and Environmental Education Gold Award, in large part for her leadership in the development and delivery of an environmental education program for local fourth grade students.



Public Lands Day was celebrated by National Monument staff and volunteers with a reenactment of the General Lands Office of the mid 1800's. While people inquired about "free land", John and Paul Kalish pose with Don Quixote, an Old Town mascot from BLM's Adopt-A-Burro program.